

Housing Hot Tips

Cypress Run

Immokalee, Florida

ASSISTANCE FOR RESIDENTS WITH FAMILY IN HAITI

On January 12, 2010 Haiti was hit with a devastating earthquake in Port au Prince. Our residents have relatives in Haiti and our hearts went out to them. United Church Homes as initiated a "Call Center/ Internet Access" area for the residents here at Cypress Run.

One of our residents, Joseph Jean-Pierre in Apt. 204, was in Haiti at the time of the earthquake. Joseph was 15 kilometers away in Enqua. Joseph, his friend and a small child were sitting outside when they felt the earth move violently. They were all thrown to the ground. He got up and saw buildings collapse and people fleeing everywhere. He was one of the lucky ones. His friends home was still standing. The United States Air Force brought Joseph back to the U.S. Joseph has recently found out that his family survived. His son is an RN and is going to Haiti with a team of doctors to help with the survivors. There are still 4 Cypress Run residents that were in Haiti at the time of the earthquake and they are still "missing". Mary Jane Salinas and Mitch Flores' office hours have been extended in order that they can assist their residents in getting information regarding their families. United Church Homes will continue their support until all avenues have been exhausted.



The Jean-Pierre's

Community Relations Staff

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We would like to thank all of the managers and regional managers who submitted material for this publication. **YOUR INPUT IS WHAT MATTERS!** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the above extensions. Thanks!

Longfellow Towers

LONGFELLOW TOWERS RESIDENTS 'BRAVE' IN FIRE
By PATTI KLEVORN, MELISSA MCGUIRE and ROB ALWAY
of the Daily News

Longfellow Towers residents made their way through thick smoke Monday afternoon to evacuate due to a fire in a fourth floor apartment. Almost all of them escaped without injury, except resident John Baker from apartment 409, which was gutted by the fire and appears to be the origin of the fire. Baker is in fair condition at Memorial Medical Center today. An employee, Chris Moffitt, who helped Baker out into the hallway, was also transported by ambulance to the hospital, but was released Monday after he was treated. Several others went to the emergency room for treatment as well. The Towers' 165 residents — in 149 apartments — got help to their evacuation safehouse, St. John's Lutheran Church, just across Rowe Street from the building's west stairwell exit. Towers' employees, medical personnel, police, clergy, family and friends all chipped in to make sure everyone made it to safety. "The number one goal is nobody gets hurt, and other than (Baker), no other tenants were," said Ludington Fire Chief Jerry Funk, who was pleased the situation was handled so well. The fire began just before 1:30 p.m. and firefighters were on the scene through much of the evening. "I can't emphasize enough the cooperation with everybody," Funk said.

At St. John's, police checked to make sure all residents were accounted for and medical personnel evaluated them for any possible injuries. No one had to be treated at the scene, according to Jeff Stockhill, Life EMS director of northern operations, however, some of them did need medication that was in their apartments. Baker and Moffitt were transported to the hospital, and four police officers went to the ER on their own after they helped residents from the building. The fire, which fire authorities are not stating a cause for yet, left heavy damage to portions of the rest of the Ludington senior living apartment complex, some from smoke, some from water sprinklers. Ludington Fire Chief Jerry Funk and Ludington Police Acting Capt. Mike Harrie concurred it would be best to bring in a fire marshal in the case, given its seriousness. Sgt. Greg Stormzand is due to be at the scene this afternoon. The smoke detector went off through the whole building when the fire started, alerting all residents to the danger.

The Ludington Fire Department was assisted by Pere Marquette, Hamlin, Scottville and Riverton firefighters, and Custer brought the Mason County Rural Fire Authority's air trailer. Ludington police, the Mason County Sheriff's Office and Michigan State Police troopers were there as

well, with Scottville police on standby. Ambulances on scene were from Life EMS (units from Mason and Lake counties), Oceana County EMS, West Shore Ambulance of Manistee and Pro-Med Ambulance of Muskegon. "It was an excellent group effort," Funk said. That sentiment was echoed by not only emergency personnel, but by help organizations as well. "This has really been a community effort," said Capt. Dan Sawka from Salvation Army, who was not asked to come but heard about the fire and came by to see what he could do.

He ordered 285 chicken dinners, which Walmart donated, and side dishes, with other donations by Shop-N-Save, Hotte Latte, Sportsman's Restaurant and Michael's Bar and Grille. "I think the operation went very well," said Life EMS Operations Director Jeff Stockhill about the emergency medical services side of the evacuation. "We had extra personnel come in. Once we got going it was a pretty coordinated effort at the church. We made sure everyone got evaluated by EMS."

GETTING BACK IN

The fire occurred in the north side of the Towers' west wing, and the west wing had the heaviest damage. ServPro employees came to air out and clean the damage and had all but a few apartments livable by late evening. Three residents stayed at the Best Western Splash Park Inn, thanks to the West Shore Chapter of the American Red Cross. It was about 9 p.m. Monday when Towers' Manager Beth Henrickson felt she could leave to go home. "I looked up at the building, and it was so beautiful," she said. "Some people had their Christmas lights up, and just said, thank you, Lord. All my people are in their apartments. They're safe and the building's OK and it's secure." Henrickson praised the efforts of all involved, including the residents. "They were so brave," she said. The firefighters and emergency personnel handled their jobs expertly, she said, and allowed her to do her job of being there to help where needed.

ServPro, too, went above and beyond her expectations. "They checked every apartment along with the Red Cross and verified it was safe," she said, adding they used fans and ionizers throughout the building to rid it of smoke. "It was a chain of helping hands," Henrickson said. "The community, the firemen and police officers and everybody. It was unbelievable. It showed the true spirit of Christmas." She appreciated St. John's church as well, which had just had its carpets cleaned before the hundreds of people came in and walked on them. She had the carpets cleaned again Monday night. "We want to be a good neighbor," she said.

Submitted by Beth Henrickson



Cedar Heights

CEDAR HEIGHTS HOSTS PANCAKE
BREAKFAST FOR RESIDENTS



The residents and staff at Cedar Heights Apartments on Rockman Highway enjoyed a pancake breakfast on the morning of Friday, February 11. The event was followed by a presentation by Robin and Kim from Rockman HomeCare. Cedar Heights Apartments is owned and operated by United Community Homes. For information on availability contact Patty Owens, property manager, at 770-



Cedar Heights

CEDAR HEIGHTS HOSTS VALENTINES DAY
FASHION SHOW

- The lovely ladies of Cedar Heights put on a dazzling fashion show in honor of Valentine's Day last Friday.

Residents of Cedar Heights Apartments, located at 1244 Rockman Highway, Cedartown, held a 2010 Valentine's Day Fashion Show at 2 p.m. on Feb. 12. Six lovely ladies competed for the title, with Annie Ingram being named Ms. Cedar Heights and Liz Green named as first runner-up.

The show began with a welcome from director Patty Owens, followed by the reading of scripture and prayer. Jean Elrod followed with a motivational moment.

"We've got things in store for you that will make you laugh and make you cry," she said. "This event is Cedar Heights' Valentine to all of you."

Austin Run

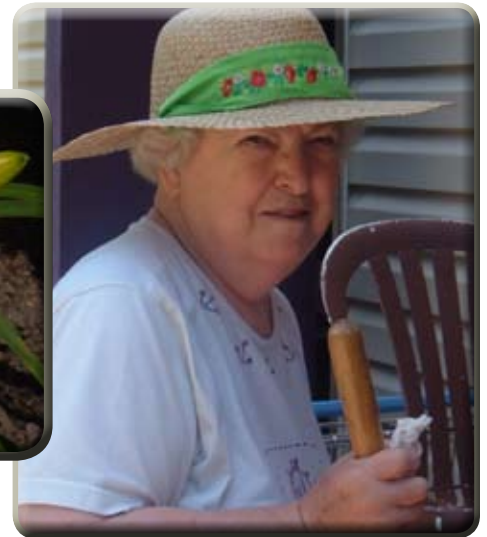
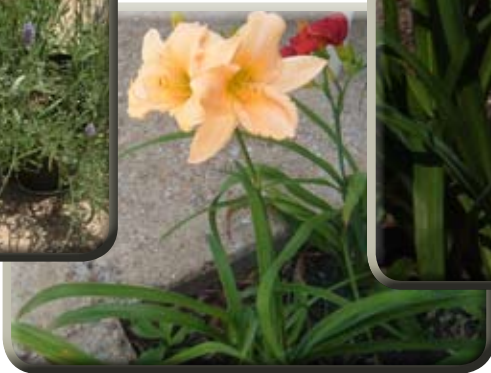
SOUTHERN QUILT GUILD MEETINGS AT AUSTIN RUN ESTATES

Austin Run Estates Community Room is the home of the Southern Quilt Guild. The ladies from the Quilt Guild get together once a week for a quilting bee where they work on their quilt projects to aid in areas of the community. Over the past few months they have been working on Red, White, & Blue Quilts for the local fire departments. They are making a quilt for every bed. In the past they have worked on and delivered quilts to families who have suffered from their homes burning. It is a fairly new and small group but with a Quilt Show and membership drive being organized for the fall at Austin Run Estates they hope the local membership will steadily increase.

Corinthian Arbors

These pictures are from our garden / patio in our back yard at Corinthian Arbors. The cute lady in the hat is our resident flower expert. She requested an enhanced-bricked in flower garden for her beautiful Easter lilies and I was able to have that work done this past Winter.

Recently, (3 weeks ago) she replanted all of the Easter Lilies and other flowers, that were waiting on the sidelines, in the new flower gardens and they are already showing off their greenery.



Chautauqua Colony

NECK EXERCISES TO DO AT YOUR COMPUTER
Submitted by Sandy Grimm

We stare at the computer
For hours, every day.
MySpace, Facebook and Google
Entrapped us in their hands.

We never take a break
To exercise ourselves.
It seems too hard today.
We cannot leave the Net.

The doctors give us warnings.
But we don't give a dang .
Too lazy for a workout,
Too busy for a break.

I wrote this little poem
For all those at work or play
To make them do some movement
And scare the pain away!

So if you need a warm up,
But cannot leave your chair
Re-read this text all over
At least three times per day!

Barrington Square

LADIES TEA Submitted by Melba Osburn

On February 4th, Lacey Drug Company (a local drug store) sponsored a "Ladies Tea" for the ladies of Barrington Square. Many of the ladies participated in the "Most Creative Hat" contest. The three winners are pictured. Also, pictured is one of the pharmacists severing tea. We had tea, coffee, muffins and fresh fruit. A good time was had by all and the ladies are looking forward to having more tea parties.



FIRST PLACE



SECOND PLACE



THIRD PLACE



VALENTINE LUNCHEON Submitted by Melba Osburn

Hickory Grove Baptist Church sponsored a "Valentine Luncheon" for the residents of Barrington Square on Saturday, February 13. They served the residents a great lunch and had gift bags for everyone. After lunch they entertained the residents with some good ole southern gospel music. On Monday many stopped by the office to tell me what a wonderful time they had.

SERVICE COORDINATOR FOR BARRINGTON SQUARE AND LAUREL'S EDGE Submitted by Melba Osburn
In the month of March, Barrington Square and Laurel's Edge hired a service coordinator. Her name is Kim Garrett and what a blessing she has already become to both properties. Kim jumped right in and starting helping many of the residents with issues. She has the month of April loaded with a lots of informational speakers and events. Both Don and I are glad Kim has came on board and look forward working along side Kim to provide for our residents and better our community.

Athena Gardens

FLOWERS AND FRIENDSHIPS AT ATHENA GARDENS. Submitted by Deborah Colella
Spring has sprung and the butterflies are fluttering. The effects are nothing less than tantalizing. Purple, yellow and white flowering trees adorn the backyard. The residents have decided to start a container garden and will soon be planting flowers. Each participant will receive a nice container. They will choose from a group of starter flowers to plant. It will be delightful to watch as flowers and friendships bloom.



Ashbury Court



This past fall I contacted the Master Gardeners in Lee County and talked with Carl Oglesby to get assistance with a vegetable garden for the residents of Ashbury Court. Mr. Oglesby took the request to their membership and they took our request as their project for the new year. I never imagined we would be so fortunate to receive the wonderful “gift” of a garden of raised beds that would cost us nothing! This has been a wonderful experience for all. The Master Gardeners in

Lee County have taken on the vegetable garden at Ashbury Court as a project this year. On March 30 a group of Master Gardeners came to Ashbury Court to build raised garden beds for the residents. They supplied the materials and the man power, of course maintenance man Nat Stinson and manager Caran Brown took directions and helped with spreading dirt and moving landscape timbers. The building began around 8:00 am and we were finished at 2:00 pm, we now have six raised beds that measure 24 feet long by 4 feet wide. The residents are already having fun planting their vegetables. Master Gardeners pictured are Russ Hutcheson, Lonnie Neaves, Bill Fisher, Charles Wood, Sandy Witt, Sandra Rea, Reggie Rose and the leader of the group Carl Oglesby.

Submitted by Caran Brown



Cottonwood Glen

On February 17, 2010, a small group of residents from Cottonwood Glen enjoyed an afternoon at the Museum. We are fortunate to have a very good museum in our small town that is supported by local volunteers and a small paid staff. During the month of February, an exhibit of art completed by black artists from the Mississippi Delta was featured. The pieces on display are privately owned, but donated for their use during February. The residents enjoyed seeing this exhibit, but seemed to enjoy the displays in the “War Rooms” and the old displays of what life was like in the early 1900’s through the 1950’s as they could all identify with these events. There is an old cotton gin, black iron pots for cooking and washing clothes and old cotton sacks used for hand picking cotton. Many of the residents had either picked cotton themselves or had family members who did. Work was hard, but good memories were expressed by all. We also went into the Fossil Room, which houses fossils that are many thousands of years old. There werw some from the B.C.’S. It was something to see these fossils that came from Leflore and surrounding counties. Lefloure County and Carroll County were the home of Chief Greenwood Leflore in the early 1800’s. There is a room that is filled with some of the furniture from his home that burned in the mid 1900’s. This land is still owned by the Choctaw Indian Nation of Mississippi. Chief Leflore was the leader of the Choctaw Indians, as well as a State Representative from the state of Mississippi. Most of the residents had no knowledge of the history of Chief Leflore and his effect on the history of our community. A good time was had by all who went on the trip and we plan to attend again during the coming months as some of the exhibits are changed from month to month. I hope that more residents will get to go on the next trip.



Mill Run Place

Popular Performers, "Stone Mountain Boys" returned for another performance. Resident, Bill Highman, reserved the Community Room for his sister, Amy, in celebration of her 75th birthday. A special guest appearance by Tex Regan added additional enjoyment for everyone. The "Stone Mountain Boys" joined together when they were around 17 years of age. Fiddle player, Tex Regan joined in with them and according to Bill Highman, their favorite memories have been playing at the Wheeling Jamboree in West Virginia. Our local community has been blessed by their music over the years by the people of all ages. It was a delight to see the younger children clogging and dancing with the residents.



A mock wedding was performed on Valentine's Day as residents enjoyed the festivities. Resident, Joe Krempel proposed to a granddaughter of resident Anna Palmer. There was competition from Anna's other granddaughter and the manager's granddaughter who wanted to be the bride as well. All three grandchildren decided they would marry him with a sharing attitude. Joe had no objection. As the girls prepared for the mock wedding, flowers were presented for the wedding ceremony. It was wonderful the way they acted the event and brought back memories to residents of their favorite Valentine memories. Games were played and prizes given for their participation. It

was a fun time of exchanging and I believe the residents enjoyed hearing the memories shared of previous Valentine's Day celebrations along with the refreshments.

Two volunteers from the community donated their time and supplies for the residents in preparation for the Easter Holiday. The residents made Easter candy which was enjoyed not only by them but other residents, family members and staff. How much was devoured before sharing with others is in question. They certainly enjoyed this event and it was decided that they would really like to do this again. These lovely ladies have enjoyed it as much as the residents and are willing to come back monthly with a craft project.



Submitted by Debbie Baum

Community Relations

Thank you for helping to make Housing Hot Tips a wonderful communication publication for all Housing Managers. Please feel free to submit any article you feel may be of interest to your fellow managers including articles about community events (include as many pictures as you would like!), helpful hints, events you have attended, etc.

PLEASE FAX ARTICLES TO 877-464-3329 OR E-MAIL KCHVINGTON@UCHINC.ORG.
CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS.